



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN
202/812-1341

HOUSE BILL INCLUDES FUNDING FOR MORE SUBMARINES

Simmons Gets Green Light On Mini-Sub; Taiwan Diesels

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today praised the defense authorization bill approved by the House Armed Services Committee late last night. The legislation includes sections critical to Connecticut's defense economy, including language that would accelerate nuclear submarine production, a move that could help curb planned layoffs at Groton-based Electric Boat (EB).

The defense bill also paves the way for EB to work on special operation forces mini-submarines, a SEAL delivery system the Pentagon says it needs to fight the global war on terror. In addition, a Simmons' drafted amendment would also make it the policy of the United States to make available to Taiwan a plan for design work on a diesel submarine, a job that could help save hundreds of designer jobs at EB.

Many of the measures secured by Simmons are part of the legislator's multi-pronged plan to curb layoffs at the Connecticut shipyard. Shipbuilding measures in the bill include:

- \$2.5 billion for one Virginia Class submarine.
- \$400 million for advanced procurement items necessary to begin building two Virginia Class submarines in 2009 (instead of 2012 as currently planned).
- Tens of millions of dollars for research and development projects at EB.
- Language to make the Department of Defense re-compete the troubled Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS), a mini-submarine project EB is favored to win.
- A new policy to make available to Taiwan design work prior to construction of eight diesel electric submarines.

The bill would also require the Navy to maintain an attack submarine force of at least 48 submarines, a force level floor that could mean big business for EB because the undersea fleet is expected to dip to 40 or less unless production rates increase.

Simmons is Vice Chairman of the Projection Forces Subcommittee, with responsibility for naval and shipbuilding matters. He is also co-chairman, with Rep. James R. Langevin (D-RI), of the Congressional Submarine Caucus.

Simmons pointed to several other initiatives in the authorization bill that will benefit Connecticut's defense industry up and above what the President requested from Congress:

- \$1.4 billion additional funding for 20 more F-22 *Raptor* aircraft, the engines for which are made at Pratt & Whitney.
- An additional \$300 million to procure three additional Pratt & Whitney-powered C-17 *Globemaster III* cargo aircraft.
- Multiyear procurement authority for the F-22, contract language to make possible bulk sales of the advanced fighter jet.
- \$115 for 6 additional Blackhawk helicopters from Sikorsky, and budget authority to purchase even more.

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